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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 17 September 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement, signed by Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Georgia, and Mr. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania, on 1 July 1998 during President Constantinescu's official visit to Tbilisi.

May we ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 33 and 93.

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Georgia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ion **Gorita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Romania to the United Nations

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Annex

Joint statement

Mr. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania, paid an official visit to Georgia between 1 and 3 July 1998 on the invitation of Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Georgia.

The two presidents and the accompanying delegations conducted comprehensive talks on specific ways further to expand the existing fruitful relationship between Romania and Georgia and exchanged views on recent regional developments and global issues of mutual interest.

1. The Parties noted with satisfaction the progress made so far in the consolidation of the Georgian-Romanian partnership according to the provisions of the bilateral Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation.

The Georgian side appreciated the opening of a resident embassy in Tbilisi and indicated its intention to open an embassy in Bucharest in the course of 1999.

2. The Parties, recognizing the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of the States, have exerted special emphasis on support of the peaceful settlement of all conflicts, including the conflict in the Abkhazian region.

3. Having reviewed the legal framework of bilateral relations, the Parties agreed that it should cover all the major areas of cooperation. A set of new agreements was signed during the visit, while others are in an advanced stage of preparation.

Special attention will be given to advance cooperation in the military sphere, including defence technology, and also in the areas of border control, coastguard and customs procedures.

4. The Parties reiterated their commitment to the common values of pluralistic democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and free market economy.

The Parties will continue to share experience and expertise on the progress of reform and institution-building in the two countries and will cooperate in the process of their integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic political, economic and security structures. In this respect, they agreed to enhance their cooperation in the military sphere, both bilaterally and in the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace programme supported by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Georgian side expressed its support for Romania's candidacy for the presidency of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2001.

The Romanian side expressed its support for the Georgian applications to join the Council of Europe and the World Trade Organization.

5. The Parties attached particular importance to the development of the transcontinental two-way route for the reliable and safe transit of goods and services and emphasized the significant role that Georgia and Romania have to play in this respect. They agreed to work closely together for the successful completion of the European Union-sponsored projects on the Transport Corridor from Europe through the Caucasus to Asia and on Interstate Oil and Gas to Europe by seeking access to the combined resources of the Poland and Hungary Assistance for Economic Restructuring programme and the programme on Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States in order to obtain the assistance of multinational financial institutions and private capital investments.

6. The Parties welcomed the decision adopted by the Yalta Summit of 4 and 5 June 1998 to transform the Black Sea Economic Cooperation into an international organization. They confirmed their readiness to implement the agreed steps concerning security and confidence-building measures, trade facilitation, transportation, energy, communications, environment protection and other regional cooperation projects.

7. The Parties agreed to cooperate effectively and in good faith, both bilaterally and in the framework of regional and other relevant multilateral organizations, in the fight against the non-conventional threats to peace and stability: international terrorism, organized crime and corruption, illegal trafficking in drugs, art objects, arms and other prohibited substances and materials, counterfeiting and forgery, and unlawful immigration.

8. The President of Romania expressed his deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to him and to the Romanian delegation on Georgian soil.

He addressed an invitation to Mr. Shevardnadze to pay an official visit to Romania. The invitation was accepted with pleasure with the understanding that the precise dates will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Done at Tbilisi on 1 July 1998.

President of Georgia

Eduard **Shevardnadze**

President of Romania

Emil **Constantinescu**